REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending in the application. Of the claims, Claims 1, 5, 9 and 13 are independent claims. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 10 and 13 have been amended. Support for these amendments can be found in the specification at least on page 9, lines 23-24 and page 5, lines 1-13, as originally filed. No new matter has been introduced by way of these amendments.

During an Examiner's Interview on February 1, 2006, the Examiner suggested that Applicant clarify the language in claim 1 to overcome rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Yamada. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the helpful suggestion and has amended claim 1 consistent with this suggestion. The following further sets forth substance of the interview.

Regarding Rejection of claims 1, 5, 9 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1, 5, 9 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yamada et al. (U. S. Patent No. 6,452,908) hereafter "Yamada".

Before discussing the cited references however, a brief review of the Applicant's disclosure may be helpful. The Applicant's disclosed invention is directed to a method for updating a lookup table. Access is provided to a first set of routes stored in nodes of a first subtree where the first subtree is accessed by a first pointer to the first subtree's root node. A second set of routes is stored in nodes of a second subtree where the second subtree is accessed by a second pointer to the second subtree's root node. While the second set of routes is stored, the first set of routes remains accessible using the first pointer to the first subtree's root node. Access is then switched from the first subtree to the second subtree by replacing the first pointer with the second pointer. (*See* Applicant's specification page 5, lines 1-5; page 45, line 7 – page 47, line 22; Fig. 23 and Fig. 25.)

In contrast, the cited reference, Yamada is directed to a route tree table that stores route data in the form of a binary tree structure. A route entry is stored in the table in each node for each of the 32 levels in the binary tree. Each route entry is directly accessible for searching by using a route searching circuit. (*See* Col. 6, line 64- Col. 7, line 3; Fig. 3; and Col. 8, lines 22 - 58). For example, at Col. 3, line 66 through Col. 4, line 12 Yamada recites:

A memory stores a route tree table having a tree structure of a plurality of nodes, each of which has a node data. A route searching circuit refers to the route tree table in response to the search request to determine a route data of a final node data as the resultant route data from the destination address, and outputs the resultant route to the input and output unit. The route searching circuit includes a next node selecting circuit for referring to the route tree table using the destination address and a predetermined mask data in response to the search request to retrieve a first next node data, for repeatedly referring to the route tree table using an address and mask data of a current node data to retrieve a second next node data, while the first next node data or the second next node data is set as the current node data, until the final node data is obtained.

The route searching circuit of Yamada merely traverses nodes of the binary tree structure, in a forward direction, to retrieve data. However, Yamada is not storing data while providing access to each route entry; rather, the route searching circuit relates only to searching data.

In addition, Yamada also provides a route updating circuit that updates route data (held route date) of a node, when certain criteria is satisfied. (*See* Col. 4, lines 42-60). In this way, Yamada provides the ability to update the route data stored within a node rather than the ability to update a pointer, referenced by a node. Further, there is no suggestion of two subtrees that allow for separate access and storing and that can be switched by pointer replacement. That is, Yamada does not provide access to a first set of routes being accessed through a first pointer of the first subtree's root node while storing a second set of routes being accessed by a second pointer of a second subtree's root node. Accordingly, Yamada does not disclose, ". . . *storing a second set of routes stored in nodes of a second subtree, the second subtree being accessed through a second pointer to a second subtree root node, while access is provided to the first set of routes stored in the first subtree by the first pointer"* or *"switching access to the second set of routes stored in the second subtree by replacing the first pointer to the first subtree root node with the second pointer to the second subtree root node."* as claimed by the Applicant in Claim 1 as now amended. (*See* Specification page 43, line 12 - page 44, line 5 and Fig. 23.)

Independent claims 5, 9 and 13 include similar limitations and, therefore, should be allowed for similar reasons over Yamada under 35 U.S.C. 102(e).

Accordingly the rejections under §102(e) are believed to be improper.

Regarding Rejection of claims 2, 6 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 2, 6 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamada in view of Kanamori et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,338,079). Claims 3-4, 7-8 and 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamada in view of Beshai et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,744,775). Claims 14-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamada in view of Przygienda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,563,823).
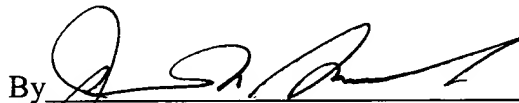
Claims 2-4 are dependent on independent Claim 1, Claims 6-8 are dependent on independent Claim 5, Claims 10-12 are dependent on independent Claim 9 and Claims 14-17 are dependent on independent Claim 13. Accordingly, these claims should be found in allowable condition for at least the same reasons as stated above.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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